

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

2 May 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARIAT, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF:

The Chief of Staff desires that the enclosed study be referred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for consideration.

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Lt. Colonel, G.S.C.,
Asst. Secretary Gen. Staff.

COPY

2 May 1944

Transmission of Captured Japanese Documents to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, Washington, D. C.

The Problem

1. To assemble all captured Japanese documents in the vicinity of Washington, D. C. where they can be systematically exploited for all types of military intelligence by a combined staff of trained research specialists.

Discussion

2. Captured enemy documents are one of the most valuable sources of information for military intelligence. The information obtainable from them pertains to Order of Battle, weapons, equipment, uniforms, insignia, methods of employment, fortifications, terrain, communications, as well as, to the psychological, political and economic factors and a variety of other subjects.

3. Individual captured documents usually contain information which is of interest to two or more different agencies. The larger the quantity of documents, the better is the quality of the intelligence to be obtained from them. Experience in the European Theater has proved that it is to the mutual interest of all intelligence agencies to work jointly in collecting and exploiting enemy documents and, conversely, that it is detrimental to the common interest to collect and exploit them independently.

4. Captured German and European documents are being advantageously exploited by the London and Washington Branches, Military Intelligence Research Section, a combined organization of trained research specialists.

5. Units of both the German and Japanese Armed Forces carry large quantities of documents with them in the combat zone.

6. The Pacific Branch, Military Intelligence Research Section, is being formed and will operate under the direct control of the A. C. of S., G-2, WDGS. It will be a combined organization with the major elements of the Armed Forces of the United States and Great Britain participating. It will function near Washington for captured Japanese documents as does the London Branch in London for captured European documents.

7. Japanese documents are transmitted from the point of capture to the various theater headquarters. Only those of operational importance are exploited and transmitted to higher headquarters. Action is required to ensure that all captured Japanese Documents are transmitted to the A. C. of S., G-2, WDGS, Washington, D. C., in order to make them available to the combined research staff.

8. The Director of Naval Intelligence, U. S. Navy; the A. C. of S., G-2, WDGS; The A. C. of A. S. (I), AAF; The Director of Military Intelligence, British War Office; and the A. C. of A. S., (I), RAF approve the action requested by this paper.

Conclusion

9. It is to the mutual advantage of all Allied intelligence agencies to collect and exploit all captured Japanese documents in one agency by a combined staff of trained research specialist. Action is required to have all captured Japanese documents transmitted to the A. C. of S., G-2, WDGS, Washington, D. C., after final examination at the various theater headquarters in the Far East and Pacific Ocean Areas.

Recommendation

10. It is recommended: (a) that the message attached hereto as Tab A, directing C. in C., SWPA, C. in C., POA, CG, USAFCBI, and CG, Alaskan Department to send captured Japanese documents to the A. C. of S., G-2, WDGS, Washington, be approved and dispatched. (b) That the memorandum attached hereto as Tab B, be sent to the representative of the British Chiefs of Staff.